



# News Release

**Michigan Community Action Agency Association  
Michigan Department of Human Services**

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Kellogg Foundation Funds Anti-Poverty Efforts in Michigan**

LANSING—Statewide efforts to combat the causes of poverty will be supported by a \$120,000 grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation of Battle Creek, Mich.

The grant will support the ongoing work of the Voices for Action Regional Network that was formed as a result of last year's Voices for Action Poverty Summit held at Cobo Hall in Detroit on Nov. 13. The summit drew more than 5,000 community organizers, social service providers and low income residents to examine and discuss best practices in decreasing poverty in Michigan. A regional network around the state has pledged to continue efforts to diminish poverty.

"The Kellogg Foundation grant makes it possible for us to build on the momentum generated by the Poverty Summit and will benefit low income families and children in Michigan," said James E. Crisp, executive director of the Michigan Community Action Agency Association (MCAAA). "The Voices for Action Network will continue to bring people together address local needs and solutions on a regional basis, and taking into account the views of people actually living in poverty. That's what makes this initiative so powerful."

MCAAA, the Michigan Department of Human Services and the Governor's Commission on Community Action and Economic Opportunity were partners in organizing the summit and are coordinating the activities of the Voices for Action Network.

"The battle to reverse poverty is the most important issue of our time," Ismael Ahmed, director of Michigan Department of Human Services, said. "The Kellogg Foundation grant helps us remove the misery that affects 20 percent of Michigan residents and 500,000 children. We see this statewide regional network as helping us meet our mission to protect the state's vulnerable children, adults and families."

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The Voices for Action Network is comprised of organizations and individuals in eight regions. Representatives from each region met during the Poverty Summit to develop consensus on the top poverty issues in their areas. All regions reported the need for job creation as among the top priorities. Helping families and providing early childhood education opportunities were frequently cited as well. Regional meetings have continued since the summit to develop action plans to combat poverty and promote economic opportunity in their respective areas across the state.

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation was established in 1930. The organization supports children, families, and communities as they strengthen and create conditions that propel vulnerable children to achieve success as individuals and as contributors to the larger community and society. Grants are concentrated in the United States, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the southern African countries of Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland and Zimbabwe.

For more about anti-poverty efforts in Michigan, please visit [www.michigan.gov/poverty](http://www.michigan.gov/poverty).

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